

# WENDELL P. CLARK MEMORIAL

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## A CENTER FOR THE COMMUNITY

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September 1, 2006

Ms. Judith F. Judson, Chairwoman  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
One South Station  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110



To Whom It May Concern:


I am writing on behalf of the Clark Memorial Community Center, a non-profit, charitable, community-oriented organization located in North Central Massachusetts in the town of Winchendon. Our organization provides recreational opportunities for area youth and families with a purpose of building character and promoting involvement. At the Clark Memorial Community Center, no one is turned away for the inability to pay.

We understand that Verizon has recently filed a petition with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) that would shorten the time a local community has to grant a license from one year to 90 days. This change essentially eliminates the ability of individual communities to consider matters of local importance during the cable licensing process. Currently, the rules underscore the importance and unique needs of each community in the Commonwealth, which in turn provides an opportunity for cable operators to understand the unique nature of each community in which they conduct business each day. This model also encourages the company to make meaningful contributions and build relationships within each locality they serve.

For instance, we have a great working relationship with Comcast, which has provided a technology grant and volunteer assistance to accomplish significant projects, enabling the organization to allocate resources to other needed areas of operation, such as subsidizing program fees and financial assistance to families with need. Without their support and community-oriented approach, we would not be in a position to serve as many local youth and families.

The current cable rules benefit all local communities. We ask that the DTE not jeopardize this relationship by changing the rules to benefit one company.

Respectfully,

  
Brian J. DuBois  
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. James Connelly, Commissioner  
Mr. W. Robert Keating, Commissioner  
Mr. Brian Paul Golden, Commissioner  
Alicia Matthews, Director, Cable Division